

Message Text

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10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-05 /073 W
----- 114909

R 121743Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8783

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONSUL IZMIR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

DIA WASHDC

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 07478

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, MORG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH-TURKISH NAVAL EXERCISES

REF: IZMIR 0077 (DTG 120830Z MAR 76) NOTAL

1. AFP MARCH 12 QUOTES TURKISH RADIO AS SAYING FRENCH-
TURKISH NAVAL EXERCISE HAD SUCCESSFULLY TAKEN PLACE IN
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AEGEAN INVOLVING FOUR FRENCH NAVAL VESSELS.

2. WE HAD INFORMAL OPPORTUNITY CHECK STORY WITH QUAI DIRECTOR MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS GELADE, BEFORE RECEIPT IZMIR'S REFTEL, AND FOUND HIM MILDLY IRRITATED OVER PUBLICITY TURKS HAD GIVEN TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A MINOR COURTESY EXERCISE ("EXERCISE DE PASSAGE"). GELADE CONFIRMED THAT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THIS NAVAL "GESTURE" IN CONNECTION IZMIR NAVAL VISIT WAS COUNTERPART TO SIMILAR RECENT COURTESY EXERCISE WITH GREEK NAVY. GELADE EMPHASIZED THAT HOLDING OF SUCH COURTESY EXERCISES WAS ROUTINE, SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF LOCAL NAVAL COMMANDERS AND WAS NOT PART OF ANY GREEK OR FRENCH-TURKISH UNDERSTANDING ON NAVAL COOPERATION. GELADE FEARED TURKS MAY BE PUBLICIZING EXERCISE TO CREATE UNBALANCED IMPRESSION VIS-A-VIS GREECE.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO QUESTION GELADE'S INTERPRETATION BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY ANKARA, OR OTHER ADDRESSEES MAY HAVE ON THIS NEW SHOW OF FRENCH NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.
RUSH

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04 MAY 2006

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